

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, The state of South Dakota is the home of Gerry Sylva, and we are richer because Gerry lives among us; and,

Whereas, Birthdays commemorate the first day of our lives, and we celebrate the birthdays of those we love, as we recognize the joys and sorrows we have shared, the strength we have gained from the obstacles and hardships we have conquered, and the small daily pleasures life offers; and,

Whereas, Gerry was born on May 11, 1917, in Stanley County, South Dakota, to Benjamin and Lela Sylva; and,

Whereas, In 1941, Gerry enlisted in the United States Navy, and in the course of his career, Gerry saw missions in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the Cold War, and in 1952, he flew his airplane through the Hydrogen Bomb, which was a classified mission, and Gerry flew to many designated Radar Stations throughout Asia; and,

Whereas, Gerry married Marie DuFour on March 11, 1950, and together they ranched for the next 35 years on Antelope Creek Road; and,

Whereas, Gerry committed his life to serving South Dakota by joining the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, was a Stanley County Commissioner, served on the Planning Board and Local Affairs, and was a member of the South Dakota Rodeo Association; and,

Whereas, Gerry will observe his 100th Birthday with all the good wishes, fanfare, and celebration such a milestone warrants, as his family and friends gather to honor him and celebrate his life and the camaraderie of the day; and it is fitting and proper for the Governor to make note of this milestone in the life of a man who has lived an exemplary life for all to emulate:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 11, 2017, as

GERRY SYLVA DAY

in South Dakota, and I join with his family and friends in wishing him a happy 100th birthday, and thanking him for his service to the state of South Dakota and to the United States of America.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-fourth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seventeen.

Dennis Daugaard
Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Shantel Krebs
Shantel Krebs, Secretary of State